

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /004 W

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O 041152Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4228

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEPT OF DEFENSE WASHDC

AMCONSUL UDORN

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 3984

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE,  
IEA/L, IOP/G, STATE FOR EA/P, EA/LC, S/PRS, BANGKOK FOR VOA  
AND PAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: USINFO

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF USAID AND OF THE LAO GOVERNMENT  
MET AGAIN THIS MORNING (WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4) TO DISCUSS  
TURNING OVER USAID PROJECTS TO THE LAO GOVERNMENT. THE  
FIRST MEETING HAD BEEN HELD MONDAY.

2. THE USAID OFFICIALS SAID TODAY'S MEETING MADE  
CONSIDERABLY MORE HEADWAY THAN MONDAY'S. THE GROUP  
AGREED TO LIMIT DISCUSSION TO ECONOMIC AID ONLY,  
OVER WHICH USAID HAS AUTHORITY, AND TO TABLE DISCUSSION  
OF SUCH TOPICS AS MILITARY AID AND NON-USAID EMBASSY PROPERTY. IN  
ADDITION, TO THE GROUP AGREED TO A MORE GENERAL TURN-OVER  
PROCEDURE, INSTEAD OF THE ITEM-BY-ITEM INVENTORY SUGGESTED  
BY THE LAO GOVERNMENT TEAM AT THE FIRST MEETING. OTHER  
PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, REMAIN TO BE NEGOTIATED.

3. THE GROUP BROKE UP THIS AFTERNOON INTO FIVE SEPARATE  
SUBGROUPS COVERING VARIOUS TYPES OF USAID PROJECT AGREEMENTS.  
TO DISCUSS WAYS TO TURN OVER CONTROL OF PROJECT ASSETS TO  
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THE LAO GOVERNMENT.

4. DISCUSSION IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE SEVERAL DAYS. ACCORDING TO AN AGREEMENT REACHED MAY 27 ENDING THE OCCUPATION OF THE USAID COMPOUND BY PROTESTORS, USAID MUST COMPLETE TERMINATION PROCESSES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN JUNE 30. CURRENTLY THERE ARE 30 USAID DIRECT-HIRE AMERICAN EMPLOYEES IN LAOS, VERSUS 162 LAST APRIL 30.

5. FYI: IN RESPONSE TO SOME QUESTIONS CONCERNING POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR LAO WHO HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY, WE HAVE COORDINATED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION -- TO BE PROVIDED ONLY IF ASKED -- WITH THE US CONSUL AT UDORN, THAILAND:

6. THERE ARE ABOUT 500 LAO REFUGEES AT UDORN WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR ASYLUM IN THE US. THE CONSUL AT UDORN IS CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. SINCE THE PROBLEMS IS REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL, HE ALSO IS ENCOURAGING LAO REFUGEES TO SEE ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES.

7. THE CONSUL AT UDORN HAS CERTAIN PAROLE AUTHORITY FROM THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN KHMER AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND HAS HELPED ABOUT 300 OF THEM. HOWEVER, SUCH AUTHORITY DOES NOT EXTEND TO LAO REFUGEES, AND THUS NO LAO HAS BEEN GRANTED PAROLE INTO THE US.  
PATE

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